

THE CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL
DOCKET NO. 272

Application of Northeast Utilities Service Company
for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility
and Public Need for a new 345-kV Electric Transmission Line Facility
between Scovill Rock Switching Station in Middletown
and Norwalk Substation in Norwalk

**Testimony Of Sidney Perry, Shelley Krieger,
And Ronny Siegel**

On Behalf of

**The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, Makom
Community Hebrew High School, Ezra Academy, and
The Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven**

June 7, 2004

Q. Mrs. Perry, please state your name, position and business address.

A. My name is Sidney Perry. I am the acting Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and the Director of the Board of Jewish Education. My business address is 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut.

Q. Has the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven previously submitted testimony in this proceeding?

A. Yes. Mrs. Betsy Hoos submitted testimony on February 9, 2004 at the Connecticut Siting Council meeting in Woodbridge, Connecticut on behalf of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

Q. What is the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven?

A. The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven is an organization which provides communal and social services to the Jewish community in the portion of Connecticut from Old Saybrook west through Milford and from New Haven north to Cheshire. The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven encompasses thirty (30) towns - Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Derby, Durham, East Haven, Essex, Guilford, Haddam, Hamden, Killingworth, Madison, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, North Madison, Old Saybrook, Orange, Seymour, Shelton, Wallingford, West Haven, Westbrook and Woodbridge (collectively, "Greater New Haven"), which cumulatively have a Jewish population of approximately 30,000 people. The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven has many responsibilities to the community including running an annual fundraising campaign that enables the Jewish community to support agencies and organizations that provide services to the Jewish community as well as support to Jews in need throughout the world.

Q. What is the relationship between the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and Ezra Academy and the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven?

A. The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven is the convening agency for Jewish life in the Greater New Haven community. The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven gives advisory, planning, consultation and financial support to seven agencies in Greater New Haven. Ezra Academy and the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven are two of the seven agencies receiving support from the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

Q. What is the relationship between the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and Makom Community Hebrew High School?

A. Makom Community Hebrew High School is a division of the Department of Jewish Education, which in turn is a division of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

Q. Has Makom Community Hebrew High School previously submitted testimony in this proceeding?

A. Yes. Dr. Norman Ravski and Mr. Harry Reiss submitted testimony on February 9, 2004 at the Connecticut Siting Council meeting in Woodbridge, Connecticut on behalf of Makom Community Hebrew High School.

Q. What services does Makom Community Hebrew High School provide to the Jewish community of Greater New Haven?

A. Makom Community Hebrew High School services all 30 towns comprising the Greater New Haven Jewish community by providing a continuing Jewish education to children post bar and bat mitzvah age. Makom Community Hebrew High School meets at the facilities at Congregation B'nai Jacob on Wednesday evenings. Two hundred seventy-nine high school children from Greater New Haven area attend Makom Community Hebrew High School on a regular basis.

Q. What is the location of Makom Community Hebrew High School?

A. Makom Community Hebrew High School is located at 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut, on the campus of Congregation B'nai Jacob.

Q. What is the relationship between Congregation B'nai Jacob and Makom Community Hebrew High School?

A. For over 16 years, Makom Community Hebrew High School has been a tenant of Congregation B'nai Jacob's for a portion of Congregation B'nai Jacob's campus located at 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge.

Q. Does the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven run or fund a program which takes place near the route of the proposed 345kV electric transmission line facility between the Scoville Rock switching station in Middletown and the Norwalk substation in Norwalk?

A. Yes. It is my understanding that the Applicants are proposing a new transmission facility to be constructed overhead through the same right of way now used for a 115kV electric transmission line that passes through Woodbridge. The proposed route of the 345kV electric transmission line traverses through the campuses of Makom Community Hebrew High School, Ezra Academy, and the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven.

Q. How many children regularly participate in activities in Woodbridge near the proposed transmission line facility?

A. Over Four Thousand (4,000) children are members of these institutions: including programs conducted at the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven, Congregation B'nai Jacob, Ezra Academy and Makom Community Hebrew High School There are more than Two Thousand One Hundred (2,100) children participate in such programs on a regular basis.

Q. In addition to the potential health impacts of the proposed transmission lines on these children, what impact would construction of the transmission lines as proposed by the Applicant have on the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven, Ezra Academy, and Makom Community Hebrew High School?

A. Each of these institutions is dependent upon tuition, dues and contributions from its members and supporters to survive. A significant decrease in enrollment at Ezra Academy, Makom Community Hebrew High School, Yeladim or membership in or participation in programming at the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven, would adversely affect the financial viability of each of these institutions. The Greater New Haven community has worked hard throughout this Century to create institutions and programs that support and enable families to live meaningful lives. It is essential for the Greater New Haven community that these institutions remain intact and vital. If constructed the proposed transmission lines will jeopardize the financial stability and continued viability of these institutions and programs.

Q. Mrs. Krieger, please state your name, position and business address.

A. My name is Shelley Krieger. I am the Head of School of Ezra Academy. My business address is 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut.

Q. Has Ezra Academy previously submitted testimony in this proceeding?

A. Yes. Rabbi Amanda Brodie and I submitted testimony on February 9, 2004 at the Connecticut Siting Council meeting in Woodbridge, Connecticut.

Q. Is Ezra Academy located near the route of the proposed 345kV electric transmission line facility between the Scoville Rock switching station in Middletown and the Norwalk substation in Norwalk?

A. Yes. It is my understanding that the Applicants are proposing a new transmission facility to be constructed overhead through the same right of way now used for a

115kV electric transmission line that passes through Woodbridge. The proposed route of the 345kV electric transmission line traverses through the campus of Ezra Academy

Q. What is Ezra Academy?

A. Ezra Academy is a regional Jewish day school affiliated with the National Solomon Schechter Day School Association and accredited by the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools. Founded in 1966, has been at its' present location in Woodbridge for over 36 years, since 1968. Children from 19 towns throughout Fairfield and New Haven Counties; Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Easton, Fairfield, Hamden, Milford, Naugatuck, New Haven, North Haven, Orange, Shelton, Southport, Stratford, Trumbull, Wallingford, West Haven, Westport and Woodbridge attend Ezra Academy in grades kindergarten through eighth grade. During the past year, Ezra Academy had 214 children enrolled in its program. Ezra Academy operates from approximately 8 a.m. through 4:30 p.m.

Q. Where is Ezra Academy located?

A. Ezra Academy is located on the grounds of Congregation B'nai Jacob at 75 Rimmon Road in Woodbridge, Connecticut.

Q. What is the relationship between Congregation B'nai Jacob and Ezra Academy?

A. Since 1968, Ezra Academy has had a special relationship with Congregation B'nai Jacob. Ezra Academy is a tenant of a portion of the property known as 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge. In addition, Ezra Academy has made substantial capital improvements to the building's facilities, including the construction of a gymnasium, science lab, library, classrooms and offices.

Q. Do you have any photographs that illustrate the current power lines on the Ezra Academy premises?

A. Yes. We have taken photographs of the Ezra Academy entrance (attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibits "A" and "B"); Ezra Academy drop-off lane (attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "C"); Ezra Academy Basketball Court (attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "D"); Ezra Academy Parking and Basketball Court (attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "E"); Ezra Academy Entrance and Gymnasium (attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "F"); Ezra Academy Playground (attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "G"); and Ezra Academy Flagpole: Picnic Tables (attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "H").

- Q. Do you have any maps that illustrate the site plan for Ezra Academy and Makom Community Hebrew High School?**
- A. A site plan mapping out the Ezra Academy and Makom Community Hebrew High School campus, showing the approximate locations of the building, the power line easement, playgrounds, basketball court, playing field, nature trails and recreation areas is annexed hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit “J”.
- Q. What is the location of the power lines in relation to Ezra Academy?**
- A. The current power lines traverse through the campus of Ezra Academy as illustrated in Exhibit “J.” The power lines run directly over the Basketball Court, Ezra Sports Field and Preschool Nature Field. The edge of the right of way runs approximately Forty-Six (46) feet from the edge of the building. The edge of the right of way runs approximately Thirty-Seven (37) feet from the Ezra Playground. A description of the easement on which the current power lines are located is recorded in Volume 61, Page 110 in the Town of Woodbridge, attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit “I”.
- Q. In addition to its classroom facilities, does Ezra Academy use any other part of the grounds of Congregation B’nai Jacob?**
- A. On a regular basis, the children who attend Ezra Academy use the playground, basketball court, playing field, nature trails, parking lot, recreation areas and other outdoor facilities. As illustrated by Exhibits “A”, “B”, “C”, “D”, “E”, “F”, “G”, “H” and “J”, the playgrounds, playing field, basketball court, nature trails and drop-off lane are all in extremely close proximity to, in some cases directly under, the power lines.
- Q. What activities does Ezra Academy host involving children from other schools?**
- A. Ezra Academy hosts the Connecticut Association of Independent School Sports League in which children from throughout the state of Connecticut participate in sports tournaments using the Ezra Academy recreational facilities. In addition, Ezra Academy presents plays, performances, fairs, fundraising events, concerts and other children activities where the public is invited. Annually, Ezra Academy hosts children from New Haven Public Schools for a Martin Luther King Day Celebration.
- Q. In addition to the potential health impacts of the proposed transmission lines on these children, what impact would construction of the transmission lines as proposed by the Applicant have on the Ezra Academy?**

A. Ezra Academy is dependent upon tuition and contributions from its students and supporters to survive. Because of the health issues surrounding EMF, we are concerned that 460kV of power lines running over the Ezra campus would deter people from sending their children to school at Ezra Academy. A significant decrease in enrollment at Ezra Academy would adversely affect the financial viability of Ezra Academy. The very survival of Ezra Academy, an accredited academic institution in Connecticut is at stake.

Q. Mrs. Siegel, please state your name, position and business address.

A. My name is Ronny Siegel. I am the Executive Director of the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven. My business address is 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut.

Q. Has the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven previously submitted testimony in this proceeding?

A. Yes. Mr. John Lichtman, Attorney Emily Resnik Conn and Dr. Thomas Handler submitted testimony on February 9, 2004 at the Connecticut Siting Council meeting in Woodbridge, Connecticut on behalf of the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven.

Q. What is the location of the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven?

A. The Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven is located at 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut.

Q. What is the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven?

A. The Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven provides social, cultural, educational, recreational and physical education activities for Jewish and non-Jewish families that reside in 48 towns and cities throughout Connecticut; Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Branford, Bridgeport, Cheshire, Clinton, Colchester, Danbury, Derby, East Haven, East Windsor, Enfield, Fairfield, Farmington, Glastonbury, Guilford, Hamden, Killingworth, Meriden, Middletown, Milford, Monroe, Naugatuck, New Britain, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Northford, Orange, Oxford, Prospect, Seymour, Shelton, Southbury, Stamford, Stratford, Torrington, Trumbull, Wallingford, Waterbury, Watertown, West Haven, Westport, Wolcott, Woodbridge and Woodbury. The Jewish Community Center offers programming for children from age 3 months to adults over 100 years old. The Jewish Community Center provides daycare from age 3 months, nursery school, after school and vacation daycare, day camp and educational and recreational opportunities for children and adults. Additionally, it

is the home of the senior citizens hot lunch program for the Jewish community of Greater New Haven.

Q. How long has the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven been in existence?

A. The predecessor to the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven was founded in 1912. The Jewish Community Center has been in its present location since 1993.

Q. Who are the members of the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven?

A. The Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven has members from 48 municipalities throughout Connecticut. All individuals, regardless of religious affiliation, are welcome to join the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven.

Q. What activities and operations do the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven conduct involving children?

A. The Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven counts among its members Three Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety Nine (3,599) children under the age of 18. Of these children, Three Hundred and Eighty Eight (388) were enrolled in the summer camp last year. The JCC operates an after-school program in which One Hundred Nineteen (119) children regularly participate. Additionally, it operates a daycare center, for children ages 3 months to 5 years, and a nursery known as Yeladim in which One Hundred Twenty Five (125) children are enrolled. The Jewish Community Center runs enrichment programs for Seven Hundred Nineteen (719) children. During school vacations, the Jewish Community Center operates a Vacation Camp, which provides programming for children whose parents' work. On weekends the Jewish Community Center hosts a variety of children's activities, including puppet shows, concerts, fairs and family fun activities in which all children throughout the region are invited to participate. The Jewish Community Center hosts sports tournaments in which children from throughout Southern New England participate.

Q. Do you have any photographs that illustrate the current power lines on the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven's premises?

A. Yes. We have taken photographs of the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven's daycare entrance and parking lot (attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "K"); daycare and preschool playground (attached hereto and

made a part hereof as Exhibit “L”); daycare and preschool picnic area (attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit “M”), parking lot showing daycare entrance (attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit “N”), and the parking lot and decamp entrance (attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit “O and P”).

Q. Do you have any maps that illustrate the site plan for The Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven?

A. A site plan mapping out the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven campus, showing the approximate locations of the buildings, the power line easement, ballfield, outdoor pool, playgrounds, basketball courts, nature trails, outdoor day camp facilities, outdoor daycare facilities and recreation areas is annexed hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit “Q”.

Q. What is the location of the power lines in relation to the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven?

A. The current power lines dissect the campus of the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven as illustrated in Exhibit “Q”. The edge of the right of way is approximately Forty Five (45) feet from the daycare center playgrounds and classroom facilities of the Jewish Community Center. The edge of the right of way is approximately Ninety (90) feet from the Ballfield and approximately Ninety (90) feet from the daycamp Base Camp. A description of the easement on which the current power lines are located is recorded in Volume 161, Page 310 in the Town of Woodbridge, attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit “R”.

Q. How would you describe the use by children of the campus of the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven?

A. As illustrated by Exhibits “K”, “L”, “M”, “N” and “Q”, children participating in activities at the daycare facilities and playgrounds are within close proximity to the power lines. In addition, in order to access the building or to reach the buses to take them to and from day camp, children must cross directly under the power lines as illustrated by Exhibits “O”, “P” and “Q”. As shown on Exhibit “Q”, the entire day camp, including the ballfield, archery, campsite, picnic area, swimming pool and arts and crafts building are within close proximity to the power lines.

Q. In addition to the potential health impacts of the proposed transmission lines on these children, what impact would construction of the transmission lines as proposed by the Applicant have on the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven?

- A. The Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven is dependent upon memberships, tuitions, program fees and contributions from supporters to survive. Because of the health issues surrounding EMF, we are concerned that 460kV of power lines running over the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven campus would deter people from becoming members, sending their children to day care, day camp, preschool and various other programming offered by the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven. A significant decrease in membership or enrollment in the various activities offered by the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven, would have a significant adversely affect on its' financial viability. The very survival the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven is at stake.